The (new) Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation (SPRING)

Student Application Guidelines

For prospective students to be admitted in April 2024
and
For doctoral students enrolled in the 2023 academic year

Osaka Metropolitan University
Doctoral Human Resource Development Support Office

January 2024

1. Program Objective

Since FY2021, Osaka Metropolitan University has provided financial aid for doctoral students and support for developing their research and career paths under the University Fellowship Founding Project for Innovation Creation in Science and Technology and the Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation (SPRING) by the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST).

From FY2024, the programs merge into a single program named "(new) Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation (SPRING)". Based on the experiences and outcomes obtained through the two programs, the doctoral student support program will continue to be offered with more substantial support.

> Since the number of students to be selected and support details for the (new) Support for Pioneering Research Initiated by the Next Generation (SPRING) have not been finalized, the contents of these guidelines may be subject to change.

2. Application Requirements

1) Persons who plan to apply or have applied for a 3-year or 4-year doctoral course at a graduate school of Osaka Metropolitan University for admission in April 2024, and who intend to obtain a degree within the standard study term (or the approved term for long-term students). Please consult with the prospective supervisor before applying.

2) Persons who have been admitted and enrolled in a 3-year or 4-year doctoral course at a graduate school of Osaka Metropolitan University in the 2023 academic year, and who intend to obtain a degree within the standard study term (or the approved term for long-term students). Please consult with the prospective supervisor before applying.

3. Details of Support

1) Incentive (support for living expenses): 2,000,000 yen per year (tentative)
2) Research support and career development support: TBD
   *Our current plan is to cover support for expenses for research activities, study abroad, internship, conference presentations, and submission of papers.

4. Period of Support and Eligibility

(1) Period of Support: From April 1, 2024 to the end of the standard study term, for both April 2024 admission and 2023 enrollees.

(2) Eligibility: Applicants who have passed this selection process and enrolled in the graduate school described in "2. Application Requirements" as of April 1, 2024.

※Supports may be terminated if you take a leave of absence during the support period depending on the reasons.

※Students who fall under any of the following categories as of the support starting date will be excluded:
- Students who have been selected as a Research Fellowship for Young Scientists (DC) of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS)
- International students supported by the Japanese Government (Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology [MEXT]) Scholarship Program
- International students who receive scholarships and/or other support from their home country
- Those who have received a sufficient level of scholarship (2.4 million yen/year) for living expenses.
- Those who are recognized as receiving a stable and sufficient amount equivalent to living expenses (2.4 million yen/year) from their university, company, etc.

[Note]

* Students selected for this project will not be eligible for exemption from repayment of scholarships from the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) for particularly outstanding achievement.

* If a student receives support from a program only for research expenses but not for living expenses, the student is eligible for this program; however, the student must confirm in advance with the program sponsor whether the support can be duplicated.

5. Student Obligations

Students supported by this program will be assigned certain responsibilities from the perspective of human resource development.

Examples)
- Obtaining a certain number of credits from the graduate school's common education courses
- Participation in a job-based research internship
- Study in Japan or abroad
- Participation in events sponsored by the program

・Presentation at international academic conferences

・Regular meetings with a mentor

・Cooperation in career path surveys after the completion of this support program

When applying to this program, please refer to

https://www.omu.ac.jp/spring/info/2023_recruitment/entry-28135.html

and fully understand the purpose of the program.

In order to fulfill the above responsibilities, the understanding of your academic advisor is essential.

Before applying, please be sure to obtain the consent of your prospective supervisor.

6. Number of Students to be accepted

・ Prospective students to be admitted in April 2024: Approx. 45
・ Students enrolled in the 2023 academic year :Approx. 7

7. Schedule

(1) Application Period

Microsoft Forms submission: Friday, January 19, 2024– Friday, February 2, 2024, 12:00 JST

Submission of essay and face photo:

Friday, January 19, 2024– Friday, February 2, 2024, 15:00 JST

(2) Notification of Interview Date and time

Notification is to be sent by Friday, February 9, 2024 to the e-mail address provided on the application form

(3) Interview

Thursday, February 15, 2024 through Friday, March 1, 2024 between 9:00 JST and 17:30 JST

The interview will take approximately 25 minutes.

(4) Announcement of Acceptance

Scheduled in March, 2024: Successful applicants will be notified at the e-mail address that you provided on your application form.

＊We will not respond to any inquiries regarding acceptance or rejection by phone.

8. Application Process

Please visit **https://forms.office.com/r/s6zcjARTsm** and submit the required information.

*Submission deadline: Friday, February 2, 2024, 12:00 JST

Also send the files listed in "(2) Files" below to the following address
 by email: gr-knky-2024dss@omu.ac.jp

*Submission deadline: Friday, February 2, 2024, 15:00 JST

*Notification of receipt will NOT be sent.

Please do not forget to encrypt the files, and send the password(s) in a separate email.

Your application will be received by completing the submission of both Microsoft Forms and the required files. Doctoral Human Resource Development Support Office will contact you only to inquire about your entry on Forms or request for re-submission of the files.

*The application on Microsoft Forms sets many sections for entry and it will take time for you to complete filling in. Please allow yourself sufficient time to proceed with the application. If you submit the application form multiple times, only the most recent submission will be considered valid and received.

(2) Files

・Essay using Form 1 (attached)
  Please name the file "Student ID Number_Name.pdf" (in .pdf format only).

・Face Photo (above shoulders) (jpg, bmp, png format).
   Please name the file "Student ID Number_name.jpg" (or bmp, png).

If you belong to another university at the time of application, you do not need to enter your student ID number.

Form 1 can be downloaded from

https://www.omu.ac.jp/spring/assets/Form1%201.docx

Notes for special caution

(1) Incomplete application documents will not be accepted.

(2) Documents submitted at the time of application will not be returned.

(3) No revisions of documents are allowed after the application procedure has been completed.

(4) If it is confirmed that the information entered in the application form, or the information contained

in the submitted documents, is not true, the applicant's eligibility to participate in this program may be revoked.

(5) Personal information provided by applicants will be used for the selection purpose only.

(6) No application fee is required for the selection process.

9. Selection Method

1) Examination contents

Subjects for examination	Scoring	Outline etc.
Essay	100 points	To be prepared in accordance with Form 1.
Interview	100 points	This will be conducted online. You will have seven minutes in the beginning to present your essay (you may use PowerPoint slides for the presentation), followed by a thirteen-minute question-and-answer session.

2) Evaluation method

Evaluation (scoring) will be performed in accordance with the results of the essay and interview. Scoring will be based on the Rubric Evaluation Table

https://www.omu.ac.jp/spring/assets/en_rubric_SPRING_240112.pdf

10. Date and Place of Interview (online)

After the application documents are received, the date and time will be designated sometime between Thursday, February 15, 2024 through Friday, March 1, 2024. The interview will take approximately 25 minutes.

If, during the abovementioned time periods, you are unable to attend an interview for legitimate reasons such as the university entrance examination or presentations at academic conferences, please specify your unavailability for the interview with the reason in the designated column of the application form (you may be asked to submit documentation to verify the reason later). However, this does not guarantee that the interview will be held at a time other than the specified time slot.

We will inform you of the date and time of the interview and the URL for the Zoom meeting by Friday, February 9. If you do not hear from us by 16:30 JST on Friday, February 9, please contact us by 17:00 JST on the same day at the e-mail address listed in "12. Contact for Inquiries."

Notes:

(1) In the event that an interview cannot be conducted as scheduled due to a natural disaster, etc., an "emergency notice" will be sent out via e-mail, so please check.

(2) Emergency contact information on the day of the interview is the same as in "12. Contact for Inquiries."

11. Note

Acceptance or rejection of this program has nothing to do with the graduate school entrance examination. Even if you are selected for this program before admission, you will not be exempted from the graduate school entrance examination. In addition, this program does not provide reductions, exemptions, or assistance for entrance and tuition fees. (For information on reduction/exemption programs, or subsidies for entrance and tuition fees and other financial aid programs offered by the university, please contact the respective department in charge of the program.)

12. Contact for Inquiries

Please inquire at the Support Office below.

Please note that inquiries will be accepted only by email in order to avoid any discrepancies in the information shared by the Support Office.

We thank you in advance for your understanding.

Doctoral Human Resource Development Support Office, OMU

Email: gr-knky-2024dss@omu.ac.jp

Essay

Name	
Affiliation	Graduate school of _____ Major in _____
Academic supervisor (or desired academic supervisor)	
Subject of research	
Research keywords (about 5)	

This is the end of the information to be included on this page.

Please start your essay from the next page in accordance with the instructions below.

● Please use the format provided on the next page and subsequent pages to prepare your essay.

● Explain your research and thoughts described in 1) through 5) below in simple terms so that it is easy for people outside your area of expertise to understand.

● You may add figures, tables, and graphs to support your essay. The essay must not exceed 3 pages in designated format when written in Japanese. <u>The maximum word count shall be 3000 words when written in English.</u> When describing your achievements in the essay, please write "Applicant" to refer to yourself. Do not include your name.

● Indicate the number of words at the end of each question.

● Please include the following five points in your essay.

1) Describe your research in a concise and easy-to-understand manner, including the <u>purpose of your research</u>, <u>research methods</u>, <u>research content</u>, and the <u>characteristics and originality of your research</u> (comparison with previous research, expected impact upon completion of the research, future prospects, etc.). Then, please describe in detail <u>what and to what extent you intend to clarify by the time you receive your degree.</u> Those who have applied for JSPS Research Fellowship for Young Scientists (DC1) for FY2024 may attach the application form as supplemental materials in addition to your essay.

2) Describe how you think the research results obtained through this program will result in <u>one or more of the following: (1) solutions to social issues, (2) creating leading research areas, and/or (3) creating a future society</u>.

3) Describe what areas of interest you have outside of your research area and how you plan to incorporate them into your own research.

4) Describe the transferable skills* you plan to acquire through this program and explain the reasons why you want to obtain these skills and how to acquire them.

   (*Transferable skills in this program include skills that can be widely transferred and applied, such as originality, flexible mindset, rising to challenges, ability to identify research needs, research management skills, data analysis skills, presentation ability, leadership skills to attract people, and other skills that are required in developing innovative human resources.)

5) Describe your ideas about your career path after completing your doctoral course, and how you would like to be active and contribute to society.

【Essay】

The maximum word count (for total number of words in items 1-5) shall be 3000 words when written in English.

(1)-1　Describe your research in a concise and easy-to-understand manner, including the purpose of your research, research methods, research content, and the characteristics and originality of your research (comparison with previous research, expected impact upon completion of the research, future prospects, etc.).【around 1000 words】
Images, charts, and graphs should be grouped together on a single page at the end.

(　words)

(1)-2　Describe in detail what and to what extent you intend to clarify by the time you receive your degree.【around 500 words】

(　words)

(2) Describe how you think the research results obtained through this program will result in one or more of the following: (1) solutions to social issues, (2) creating leading research areas, and/or (3) creating a future society.【around 500 words】

(　words)

(3) Describe what areas of interest you have outside of your research area and how you plan to incorporate them into your own research.【around　300 words】

（ words）

(4) Describe the transferable skills* you plan to acquire through this program and explain the reasons why you want to obtain these skills and how to acquire them.【around 300 words】

（ words）

(5) Describe your ideas about your career path after completing your doctoral course, and how you would like to be active and contribute to society.【around 300 words】

（ words）

Images, charts, and graphs for (1)-1should be grouped together on a single page at the end.

Please provide figure numbers and captions so that it is clear where the reference is being cited in (1)-1